

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE 9771

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CINCUSAFE

A/ AMCONSUL ADANA 4517

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, TU

SUBJECT: PARLIAMENTARY RECESS

BEGIN SUMMARY. BOTH HOUSES OF TURKISH PARLIAMENT WILL BEGIN ANNUAL RECESS JULY 5. ALTHOUGH FINAL WEEK OF SESSION IS LIKELY TO PRODUCE FURTHER BITTER CLASHES BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION, RECESS (WHICH COULD LAST UNTIL NOVEMBER 1) WILL PROVIDE GOVERNMENT SEVERAL MONTHS OF ASSURANCE AGAINST BEING UNSEATED BY PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES. END SUMMARY.

1. THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DECIDED JUNE 26 TO ENTER ITS ANNUAL RECESS JULY 5 AND TO HOLD EXTRA WORKING SESSIONS DURING THE FINAL WEEK BEFORE RECESS. THE SENATE WILL RECESS SIMULTANEOUSLY. UNLESS RECALLED EARLIER, THE TWO HOUSES ARE REQUIRED BY THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONSTITUTION TO RESUME WORK ON NOVEMBER 1.

2. IN ANOTHER CHALLENGE TO THE GOVERNMENT, THE OPPOSITION
REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) AND DEMOCRATIC PARTY
(DP) HAD PROPOSED THAT PARLIAMENT STAY IN SESSION UNTIL 22
HIGH PRIORITY BILLS WERE ACTED UPON. HOWEVER, THE JULY 5 CLOSING
DATE-- WHICH PROBABLY WAS PERSONALLY PREFERABLE TO MOST OPPOSITION
MEMBERS -- WON OUT.

3. TENSION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE OPPOSITION REMAINS
AT A HIGH LEVEL FOLLOWING THE GEREDE AND DIYARBAKER INCIDENTS,
AND THE OPPOSITION PROBABLY WILL MAKE THE MOST OF ITS OPPORTUNITIES
TO CHALLENGE THE GOVERNMENT IN THE FINAL WEEK. RPP LEADER
ECEVIT HAS ASKED ALL HIS DEPUTIES TO REMAIN IN ANKARA UNTIL THE
RECESS (WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THOSE WHO WILL ACCOMPANY HIM TO
RALLIES IN ISTABUL AND KONYA). HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT
APPEARS TO HAVE A GOOD CHANCE OF PUSHING THROUGH A NUMBER OF
BILLS IT FAVORS.

4. AT PRESENT THE ONLY INDICATION OF A POTENTIALLY DIFFICULT
PROBLEM FOR THE GOVERNMENT IN THE CLOSING WEEK CONSISTS OF
THE RPP'S PROPOSAL OF A CENSURE MOTION AGAINST INTERIOR MINISTER
ASILTURK, SEC GEN OF THE NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY (NSP). THE RPP MAY
HOPE TO CAPITALIZE ON THE RESENTMENT FELT BY PRO-DEMIREL INDEPENDENT
DEPUTIES TOWARD THE NSP BECAUSE OF THAT PARTY'S SHARE OF GOVERNMENT
APPOINTMENTS. HOWEVER, WE HAVE AS YET SEEN NO EVIDENCE THAT
THE INDEPENDENTS ARE PREPARED TO BREAK WITH THE GOVERNMENT.
IN FACT, SEVERAL INDEPENDENTS HAVE RECENTLY ADVOCATED
A MERGER OF THE GOVERNMENT PARTIES.

5. THE RECENT VIOLENT CLASHES BETWEEN PARTY SUPPORTERS
HAVE EVOKED STATEMENTS FROM BOTH TURK-IS LABOR CONFEDERATION
PRESIDENT TUNC AND EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT BERKER,
POINTING OUT THAT THE CLASHES DESTROY DEMOCRACY AND UNDERMINE
TURKEY'S ABILITY TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEMS OF CYPRUS, THE
ARMS EMBARGO, AND THE ECONOMY. TUNC CALLED ON THE PARTIES TO SEEK
A RECONCILIATION. MILLIYET EDITOR ABDI IPEKCI, IN AN EDITORIAL
JUNE 27, SUPPORTED THESE STATEMENTS BUT SAW LITTLE GROUND FOR HOPE
THAT THEY WOULD BE HEHEDED.

6. THE INTER-PARTY TENSIONS SEEM CLOSELY
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RELATED TO THE OCTOBER 12 PARTIAL SENATORIAL ELECTIONS,
FOR WHICH THE CURRENT PARTY RALLIES CONSTITUTE A PRELIMINARY
CAMPAIGN. BUT AFTER THE JULY 5 RECESS, THE OPPOSITION WILL
NOT HAVE ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO SEEK TO UNSEAT DEMIREL
FOR UP TO FOUR MORE MONTHS. THE OUTCOME OF THE ELECTIONS
IS WIDELY EXPECTED TO BEAR HEAVILY ON THE GOVERNMENT'S STABILITY
AFTER THE NOVEMBER 1 MANDATORY END OF RECESS.
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